

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. Aljes Bebler began his conversation [redacted] by referring to the "steady and unaltered" course of the policy of the Yugoslav Government since the previous conversation between the two last [redacted] Bebler emphasized the "stability" of this policy throughout the discussion, and said that "you see we have not betrayed the Socialist Front even though they have abandoned us".
2. Bebler admitted that the economic sanctions of the Cominform countries was more severe than he expected last August, but that "they are still not fatal as some hoped". He declared that Yugoslavia was willing to open economic negotiations with the West on a straightforward commercial basis, with "no strings attached". While defending themselves against attacks from the East, Bebler said that Yugoslavia had not abandoned the principles of Marxism or solidarity with the common aims and interests of all the Peoples Democracies.
3. Yugoslavia had answered the "pin pricks" of Albania in several ways, Bebler continued. He expressed his conviction that Albania is suffering greater shortages than Yugoslavia. The latter country is exercising strict control over all traffic and communications through Yugoslavia between Albania and other countries. Bebler felt that the discontinuance of Yugoslav representation of Albanian interests abroad through Yugoslav diplomatic missions was also hurting Albania. Bebler stated, "naturally we are giving safe haven to Albanians persecuted for friendship with Yugoslavia".
4. The repeated emphasis on the continuity of Yugoslav Government policy gave source the impression that Bebler had a very "paternal interest" in it. Source believes that there are two distinct factions at the top level in Tito's Government: one adhered to by Bebler and probably Edvard Kardelj and Moshe Pijade, making every effort toward eventual rapprochement with the Soviet Union; the other is represented

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by recalcitrants like Milovan Djilas and Alexander Rankovic, advocating a more aggressive and independent line.

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